

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
AZUMA et al. )  
Application Number: To be assigned )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
For: STORAGE DEVICE AND STORAGE SYSTEM )  
Attorney Docket No. TSUT.0103 )

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate the multiple dependent claims. Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: